



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PO BOX 360
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

MARY E. O'DOWD, M.P.H.
Commissioner

May 13, 2014

Martha Gonzalez

Re: **Notice of Summary Suspension:**
EMT - Basic Certification # 553313
Investigation Control # 2014-0120

Dear Ms. Gonzalez:

The New Jersey Department of Health (the Department) is vested with the responsibility of carrying out the provisions of the Health Care Facilities Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq., which was enacted, in part, to ensure that all hospital and related health care services rendered in the State of New Jersey are of the highest quality. As defined at N.J.S.A. 26:2H-2(b), health care services include any pre-hospital care rendered by basic life support (BLS) personnel. In addition, the Emergency Medical Services Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 et seq., authorizes the Department to certify Emergency Medical Technician-Basics. In furtherance of the objectives set forth in the statutes, the Department has adopted regulations that govern the training, certification and professional conduct of EMT-Basic and EMT-Basic candidates. See N.J.A.C. 8:40A, Emergency Medical Technicians-Basics: Training and Certification.

On April 29, 2014, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received notification that you were charged with theft by deception. Consistent with regulatory authority and OEMS policy, the OEMS opened an investigation in response to this notification.

Upon opening the investigation, the OEMS investigator confirmed that you are currently certified as an EMT-Basic and also received confirmation that you were charged on March 12, 2014 with the following under complaint number W2014-000612:

1. Theft by deception in violation of Title 2C:20-4C; and
2. Tampering with public records in violation of Title 2C:28-7A(1).

According to the arrest warrant, you knowingly submitted a time record indicating you were working at one place of employment while you were actually working at another.

As you are aware, EMT-Basics work in unsupervised, two person teams in order to respond effectively to emergencies. You should also be aware that neither member of the team works in a supervisory capacity. Rather, one team member drives the vehicle and the other is alone in back of the ambulance providing emergency medical care. As such, the nature of this work requires EMT-Basics to make important medical assessments and carry out appropriate pre-hospital interventions at motor vehicle accidents, in people's homes and at other difficult field locations. In order to be effective, EMT-Basics must trust each other and be trusted by EMT-Paramedics, police officers, fire fighters, doctors and other professionals.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2(a), "the Commissioner, or his designee, may summarily suspend a person's EMT-Basic and/or EMT-Instructor certification when, in his or her opinion, the continued certification of that person poses an immediate or serious threat to the public health, safety or welfare."

Because the crimes with which you have been charged are serious and the nature of the charges are indicative of poor judgment and lack of trustworthiness, the Department finds that your continued certification as an EMT-Basic constitutes an immediate and serious threat to public health, safety, and welfare. **Therefore, your certification as an EMT-Basic is immediately suspended and shall remain suspended until such time as the Department has completed its investigation into this matter. You may not, under any circumstances, act in the capacity of or perform the duties of an EMT-Basic in New Jersey during this period of suspension.**

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:40A-7.1(f), certification cards are the property of the Department and shall be immediately surrendered upon demand. You are hereby directed to immediately surrender your EMT-Basic certification card(s) to the OEMS, either by sending via United States Postal Service First Class Mail, to the address on the first page of this Notice, or via physical delivery to Department of Health, OEMS, John Fitch Way, Market and Warren Streets, Trenton, NJ, 08611.

In the interim, the OEMS will continue to investigate this matter. You will be notified when the OEMS has completed its investigation, at which time you will be advised of what action(s), if any, will be taken with respect to your EMT-Basic certification.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3(a), you may appeal to the Commissioner of the Department Health for emergency relief to contest this summary suspension. Your request for a hearing on this matter must be submitted in writing and must be accompanied by a response to the charges contained herein. Please include the control number **2014-0120** on your correspondence, and forward your request to:

New Jersey Department of Health
Office of Legal & Regulatory Compliance
P.O. Box 360, Room 805
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
Attn: Ms. Tami Roach

Failure to submit a written request for emergency relief within 30 days from the date of this Notice shall be interpreted as an acceptance of this Department's decision to

summarily suspend your EMT-Basic certification pending completion of an investigation, thereby forfeiting all rights to emergency relief. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Donald Roberts, at (609) 633-7777.

Sincerely,

Nancy Kelly-Goodstein, M.A.S.
Acting Director
Emergency Medical Services

c. Christopher R. Rinn, Assistant Commissioner
Donald Roberts, OEMS
James Sweeney, OEMS
Tami Roach, OL&RC

SENT VIA REGULAR U.S. MAIL AND
CERTIFIED MAIL # 7008 1140 0001 5589 5433
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED